

Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 23 November 2016

Notice of meeting / Hysbysiad o gyfarfod:

County Council

**Thursday, 1st December, 2016 at 2.00 pm,
County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.55pm. All members are welcome to join the Chairman for prayers should they wish to do.

| Item No | Item | Pages |
|---------|---|---------|
| 1. | Apologies for absence | |
| 2. | Chairman's report and receipt of petitions | 1 - 2 |
| 3. | Declarations of Interest | |
| 4. | Public Open Forum | |
| 4.1. | Question from Mr. J. Thurston to County Councillor P. Fox "Will he support the completion of the walking and cycling path along the disused railway line in the Clydach Gorge; use his office to open a dialogue between MCC, the Welsh Government and the landowners to seek a swift resolution regarding the remaining 700 metres of path; and report back to members?" | |
| 4.2. | Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice Bureau - Annual Report Update | 3 - 24 |
| 5. | To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2016 | 25 - 32 |
| 6. | To note the action list of the last meeting | 33 - 34 |
| 7. | To receive the minutes of Democratic Services Committee 17th October 2016 | 35 - 40 |
| 8. | Notices of Motion | |

8.1. Motion from County Councillor R.J.W. Greenland

The recent proposed revaluation of non-domestic rates (NNDR -business rates) has thrown up some very alarming increases for businesses in Monmouthshire.

65% of businesses in the County have found their draft rates increase with a number hiked by more than 200%. In practice this means if these proposals are confirmed, some businesses face increases next year running into tens of thousands of pounds. There seems to be a pattern of rural counties facing increases whilst the larger towns and cities are decreasing. As the system is based upon notional rental values, it seems unlikely that the shift in rental values of business premises between 2010 and 2015 reflects the increases in rateable values proposed for some Monmouthshire businesses.

If this revaluation is not challenged it may well see some of our leading retailers and hospitality businesses in particular being unable to continue trading.

If businesses are forced to pay huge increases based on these revaluations whilst they await the outcome of appeals, severe cash flow problems may endanger the future for some. At the very least we urge WG not to impose increases until the results of appeals are known.

It is also of concern to this Council that whilst the WG has announced a transitional scheme for small businesses affected by the increase, it has not done the same for the larger businesses which will be harder hit. We call for sympathetic transitional arrangements for all businesses.

The Welsh Government has the power to implement or postpone these proposals. In the light of the concern expressed by this Council and many businesses in Monmouthshire, we urge the WG to postpone these draft proposals to give time for a thorough review of the methodology and results thrown up from this revaluation to be considered.

8.2. Motion from County Councillor A. Easson

My perception is that Monmouthshire is considered to be a Cinderella Authority in relation to plans for the Metro System within the City Region. I therefore move that far greater emphasis is made upon the fact that Monmouthshire exists and is not just a blip on the map of S E Wales. Furthermore that our Leader, and appropriate Cabinet members who are part of the wider Combined Authority give greater voice to strengthen our presence -- which appears to be missing.

9. Report of the Head of Finance

9.1. Proposal to revise the policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in respect of Supported Borrowing for 2016/17 onwards

41 - 66

10. Report of the Head of Planning, Housing and Place Shaping

10.1. Monmouthshire Housing Association - Request to De-Pool Service Charges

67 - 78

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|-------|---|----------|
| 11. | Report of the Head of Democracy, Engagement and Improvement | |
| 11.1. | Children and Young People Chief Officer Annual Report | 79 - 130 |
| 12. | Members Questions | |
| 12.1. | <p>From County Councillor A. Easson to County Councillor E. J. Hackett Pain</p> <p>Two schools in Monmouthshire have signed up to receive Independent HR support. Do you, as Cabinet Member for education, support these actions and do you have an express view about any other schools who may intend to resort to employing outside HR providers?</p> | |

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

D. Batrouni
J. Prosser
D. Blakebrough
M. Powell
V. Smith
G. Burrows
R. Chapman
P. Clarke
J. Crook
D. Dovey
G. Down
A. Easson
D. Edwards
R. Edwards
D. Evans
P. Farley
P.A. Fox
J. George
R.J.W. Greenland
L. Guppy
E. Hacket Pain
R. Harris
B. Hayward
M. Hickman
J. Higginson
P.A.D. Hobson
G. Howard
S. Howarth
D. Jones
P. Jones
S. Jones
S.B. Jones
P. Jordan
J. Marshall
P. Murphy
B. Strong
F. Taylor
A. Watts
P. Watts
A. Webb
S. White
K. Williams
A. Wintle

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Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Outcomes we are working towards

Nobody Is Left Behind

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

Our County Thrives

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.